

HAMPTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

ADULT SLOW-PITCH FALL SOFTBALL

2004 RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. OFFICIAL RULES: The 2004 Official Softball Rules published by the National Softball Association (NSA).
2. TEAM ELIGIBILITY: A team shall be eligible to participate in the HP&RD softball program upon payment of league fees.

The Athletic Division of the HP&RD reserves the right to move a team to a higher league if a team is found "loading" their team up after the original roster is turned in or the league schedules have been distributed. The Athletic Division has the right to move teams to higher or lower leagues anytime during the season.

Teams with any "high A" ballplayers from the past two summers or fall must play "high A".

3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY: A team member may participate on one team entered in the HP&RD leagues. The only exception to this rule is if a team member wishes to play in the co-ed league. A person is allowed to play on one men's, women's or church team in addition to playing on a co-ed team. It is the coaches responsibility to enforce this rule. Anyone found in violation of this rule will be suspended for a minimum of one year and all of the games that he/she participated in will be forfeited

If there are two (2) Co-ed Leagues; all "A" and "B" league players must play in the Industrial Co-ed Division. If there is only one Co-ed league then all "A" and "B" league players will not be permitted to play in the Co-ed Division.

Each player is required to bring a picture-ID with him/her to every game, and will be required to present it upon request. Any team that plays an ineligible player will be charged with forfeiture for all games in which the player has participated.

HP&RD reserves the right to remove a player from any league at any time if the player's skill level is far more advanced than the level of competition.

Each participant must be at least 16 years old before 9/1/04 in order to play in an Adult League.

4. TEAM ROSTERS: The team roster shall not exceed 20 players, unless it is a church team or a co-ed team. Church teams may have an unlimited number of players on their rosters and the co-ed teams are limited to 35 players per roster.

There is a mandatory \$5.00 registration fee for all players that do not reside in the City of Hampton. This non-refundable fee must be paid when the rosters are submitted. Any player found using a false address will be suspended for a minimum of one year.

5. ROSTER ADDITIONS: For a player to become eligible to participate in the HP&RD Softball program after the initial roster has been submitted to the Athletic Office, the team manager must call the Athletic Office to submit the name of the player to be added. Each player addition must have signed the roster before he/she is eligible to participate; otherwise the game is forfeited. **Roster additions will not be accepted after the sixth game of the season**

A. **There will be no special consideration given to nights played or players on industrial or co-ed teams during regular season or tournament time.**

Note: Roster deletions will not be taken over the phone. Any player appearing on two or more rosters at the starting date of the regular league season will legally belong to the team for which he/she participated first in a HP&RD schedule league game.

Once your original roster is turned in and your team has been placed in their permanent league, no players can be added from a higher league.

6. UNIFORMS: Each player, manager and coach participating in a league game or tournament must wear a uniform shirt alike in color. **All teams must be in uniform shirts no later than the sixth game of the season.** Sweat shirts and jackets and such may be worn over the jersey in cool weather. Any team member, manager or coach out of uniform taking the field or batting will be removed from the game until it is corrected. Teams that have two (2) or more sets of uniforms are not exempt from this rule.

EXAMPLE: The Blue Jays have a set of blue jerseys and a set of white jerseys. All players participating in that scheduled game must have either all blue or all white shirts.

This is not an optional rule to the opposing manager, but a rule that will be strictly enforced by umpire.

7. GAME BALL: Each ball provided must be an optic .44 core. Men will use a 12” ball and women will use an optic .47 core 11” ball . Co-ed will use both the 12” and the 11” balls for male and female players consecutively. Each team is responsible for hitting their own ball.

8. GAME TIME LIMIT: A 60-minute time is imposed on each game. No new inning may start after this time limit.

- NOTE:**
- a. Once inning is started, the complete inning must be played.
 - b. The next inning starts immediately after the third out of the previous inning.
 - c. All tied games will be played out.
 - d. There is no grace period-game time is forfeit time.

9. REGULATION GAME: Five innings of play will be considered an official game if the home team is ahead by 10 runs or more. (The losing team must have batted at least five times for this ruling to come into effect.)

All games will be played with a 3-2 count with a courtesy foul.

Men’s teams may begin a game with 9 players and the 10th vacant spot in the batting lineup will not be an out. Co-ed teams may begin a game with 9 players; but it must be 5 women and 4 men.

10. AUTOMATIC SUSPENSIONS: Any team member ejected from a game shall be suspended from the next three (3) games to be played by his/her team. Notice of this suspension will not be necessary. No exceptions. Any player in violation of the jewelry rule will have a one (1) game suspension.

- a. Arguing of balls and strikes will not be allowed.

- Penalty:**
- 1. Warning
 - 2. Ejection from the game

- b. Racial remarks will not warrant a warning.

Before a player is reinstated they must make an appointment with the Athletic Division to discuss the matter. If the suspended player participates in league play before they meet with the Athletic Division, the player in question and coach will be suspended for a period of one year from the date of the infraction.

If the player is on an industrial and a co-ed team, the player cannot play for either team while suspended.

Note: The use of such a player shall result in an automatic forfeit by his/her team of all games in which he/she participated while suspended and the team member will be suspended for a period of one year.

11. League Suspension for Unsportsmanlike Conduct by Coaches, Players, and Fans: Any act of unsportsmanlike conduct observed by the HP&RD or reported to the HP&RD by its agents, such as umpires, commissioners of officials, school officials, etc., will be investigated by the HP&RD. If a suspension is imposed, it will be for a minimum of one year from the date of the suspension.

Example: Striking an umpire or player or using racial remarks toward an umpire or player could result in suspension from one year to lifetime from all HP&RD sponsored programs.

12. FORFEITURES: A team charged with four (4) forfeitures of any nature, except in the case of an ineligible player, during the season shall be dropped from the league immediately. All money remaining from the team's entrance fee will be forfeited to the City of Hampton.

13. PROTEST: A protest of a game must be made to the umpire immediately before the next pitch is made to the batter. In the case of player ineligibility, that questioned team member will be required to present his/her picture-I.D. upon the umpire's request. If that player cannot provide pictured identification, he/she must be removed from the game until correct identification can be provided. Any team that is charged with a forfeiture, shall be charged for all of the games that the ineligible player has participated in.

All other protests shall be in writing, stating player or rule in question and be accompanied by a \$100.00 fee in check or money order payable to the Hampton Parks and Recreation Department. The fee will be returned if a protest is upheld. The protest must be submitted by 4:00pm to the Athletic Office on the city workday immediately following the game, which is protested.

Example: Tuesday's game protest due by 4:00pm, Wednesday.
Friday's game protest due by 4:00pm, Monday.

14. GAME CANCELLATIONS: Games cancelled because of rain or wet grounds shall be determined at each field at game time by the official-or earlier-if possible by the HP&RD. Call the Recreation Information Hotline at 727-6251 after 4:00pm to determine if games have been cancelled. If cancellations are not on the information line, players are expected to report to the game site.

15. MAKE-UP GAMES: Rained-out games will be re-scheduled by the HP&RD and played as soon as possible. There may be up to 24-hour advance notice on make-up games, except for end-of-season games and tournament games. Therefore, it is the coach's responsibility to gain this information from the Athletic Division and relay the revised schedule to their players. Claiming ignorance of a re-scheduled game time or date, which results in a game forfeiture, shall not be justification for a protest. Make-up games will be played whenever a field is available. This could be during the week, Friday nights or Saturdays. **We cannot give consideration to teams scheduled to play in other leagues or tournaments.**
16. END-OF-SEASON (CITY) TOURNAMENT:
- A. To participate in the end-of-season tournament, a team member must have played in at least six (6) games during the regular season.
 - B. The top four (4) teams in each league will go to the end-of-season tournament. The number of teams will depend on the number of teams in the league.
 - C. For the end-of-season tournament each team must have nine (9) players to start and finish a game. Co-ed must have nine (9) players; four men and five women.
 - D. Trophies will be awarded* as follows:
 - 1. Team trophy for first and second place in each league.
 - 2. Team trophy for first and second place in each end-of-season tournament.
 - 3. Fifteen (15) individual awards are given to first and second place in each end-of-season tournament.
 - 4. One MVP trophy will be awarded in the each end-of-season tournament.
 - F. **TOURNAMENT GAMES CAN BE PLAYED ANY NIGHT OF THE WEEK.**

*-All trophies will be awarded at the end-of-season tournament.

17. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES/ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES: The use of alcoholic beverages and/or illegal substances on City property is prohibited. Anyone caught using them shall be subject to arrest. Any players caught using illegal substances or consuming alcoholic beverages will be suspended from the league indefinitely.

A team may be censored if their supporters (fans) are caught indulging in the use of alcoholic beverages or illegal substances.

18. ABUSE OF PROPERTY: Any team, team member or anyone connected with a team in any way, found guilty of defacing or damaging property at any of the game sites will be banned permanently from participation in all HP&RD sponsored programs.

Example: Banging on dugout roofs, dugouts, fences, or tampering with lights or light box switches, etc.

19. SAFETY RULES:

- A. Only bats may be used to loosen up. Nothing may be attached to a bat such as a donut.
- B. Only softball bats that read “Official Softball” with a BPF of 1.2 or less will be used.
- C. A shoe shall be considered legal if it is made with either leather or canvas uppers or similar materials. The soles may have soft or hard rubber cleats. **Metal cleats are prohibited**. Shoe sole or heel projections other than the standard shoe plate are prohibited. The all-purpose molded cleat softball shoe is legal. Shoes must be worn by all players.
- D. Cars are not allowed to park or pull on any grass areas on any softball fields in the City of Hampton. Any player or fan illegally parked will be ticketed and towed at the owner’s expense. Cars parked in illegal parking spaces will also be towed.
- E. Players, coaches, or team managers will not be allowed to stand inside the playing area during games. Only the on deck player will be allowed in the playing area. All other players, coaches, team managers, etc. must be in the dugout or behind the fenced area outside of the playing field.

20. All playing rules are specifically covered in the NSA Rulebook.

21. **REFUNDS**: There will be **NO REFUNDS** of any kind after the game schedules have been completed.

22. PARKING: There will be absolutely **NO** parking on grass areas on or near athletic fields. If cars are found parked on grass areas at any field, the game will be stopped and cars removed on your time. The game clock will continue to run while cars are being moved. Failure to remove cars will result in forfeiture of the game.

23. LIABILITY: The City of Hampton will not be responsible for any injuries incurred to managers, coaches, players, officials or spectators during practice sessions, league play or tournament play.

NOTE: Each registration card includes this liability waiver and must be signed.

24. CONCESSIONS: In accordance with the City Code Sec. 26-30, no one shall sell any item(s) at any field(s) unless permission has been granted by the HP&RD. Anyone wishing to operate a concession stand must submit a written request to Robbi Hutton, Hampton Parks and Recreation Department, 22 Lincoln Street, Hampton, VA 23669.

Note: Anyone caught operating as a concessionaire illegally will be subject to arrest.

ATHLETIC HOTLINE

727-6251

Ryan Smith
727-1113

Robbi Hutton
727-1975